## BIOGRAPHY.

### CRISTOFORO ALASIA.

By DR. GEORGE BRUCE HALSTED, Austin, Texas.

When a new star comes out in the skies, thither turns the observing eye. "Le Matematiche" is a new luminary among scientific periodicals, though sailing safely now far into its second year.

Its director, its creator, Professor Alasia, has won the confidence and is attracting the attention of the mathematical world.

A sketch of his career cannot but be opportune, however brief and inadequate. That Professor Alasia is still very young to have won so prominent a position will be seen when we say, he was born in 1869, in Sassari, Sardinia.

His university course was carried on by turns in three different cities, Turin, Cagliari, and Rome. At Turin he was so fortunate as to have for masters those extraordinarily influential men, D'Ovidio and Peano.

At Rome he completed two courses at the School of Application for engineers under the direction of Senator Cremona. The course there in rational mechanics under Professor Cerruti is justly famous.

The sudden death of young Alasia's father recalled him to Sardinia. He won his first teaching position by competition. On this occasion he published his first book, on the theory of equations, (Naples, 1893).

CRISTOFORO ALASIA.

His love of science did not however prevent him from also occupying himself with the fine arts; he has won two prizes at expositions of dilettanti in painting. Professor Alasia is a gifted linguist. He has an elegant Italian style, writes the purest French, and at present is engaged with Professor Dionisio Gambioli in translating into Italian Cajori's History of Physics. They will enlarge the work by two additional chapters and copious notes. It is expected to appear at the end of this year.

In his Essay on the nomenclature (bibliographic) of the New Geometry of the triangle, our author proposes to give the most complete possible list of the terms which have entered the domain of geometry in these latter years, to give their veritable signification, to investigate what geometer has first used them, upon what occasion, etc.

In addition, when it is a question of a point or a straight, he has given its representation according to the method of Grassmann; and for circles and conics he has given the equation in barycentric or normal coördinates.

The monthly journal of pure and applied mathematics founded by Professor Alasia, "Le Matematiche," has had an extraordinary success.

The last thing ever written by the great Hermite was for it. Professor Alasia has been able to win the support and friendship of many of the most illustrious of living mathematicians, for example, Poincaré.

His is a charming figure in the new renaissance of creative productivity in Italy. His fine judgment and powers of assimilation are illustrated in his Poligeometrognomia generale e la Geometria Non-Euclidea del Chrystal, a translation of Chrystal's Non-Euclidean Geometry, preceded by a general resumé, historic and bibliographic, in exposition of the foundations of geometry, remarkable in erudition and breadth of insight.

His splendid fertility is amply shown in the subjoined list of his other writings:

Elementi della Teoria delle equagioni, ecc.—Napoli, 1893, B. Pellermo, ed.

Sulla deviazione dei gravi,—lettera alla Societa Astronomica d'Francia.

Su di alcune proprieta dei numeri e delle congruenze, ecc. Civitanova—Marche, 1898. C'est le vol. VI, sect. Science, de la Collection d'Audes italiane qui a été publiée par l'éditeur D. Natalucci.

Sulle involuzioni di ordini superiori,—Civitanova, 1898, Natalucci, ed.

Su di alcune proprieta delle linee geodetiche,—Sassari, 1898.

Esercize ed applicazioni di Calcolo infinitesimale e integrale—Citta di Castello, 1898, S. Lapi, ed.

Calcolo Grafico ed applicazioni alla Statica, ibid. 1899.

La Recente Geometria del triangolo, ibid. 1900.

566 Relazioni metriche e trigonometriche fra gli elementi d'un triangolo piano, —ibid. 1900.

Geometria e Trigonometria della Sfera, Milano, 1900, U. Hoepli, ed.

Esercizi ed applicazioni di Trigonometria piana, ibid. 1901.

Su di alcuni teoremi di Le Paige e Deruits, Madrid, 1899.

Producto de una serie cualqueira por la exponencial e$^{-x}$.   (Estrait du Progreso
 Matemático de Zaragoza, ser. 2'. An. II, n$^o$. 10, 1900).
Una trasformacion del Prof. Allardice (extr. ibid. n$^o$. 11) (1900).
Alcune combinazioni di formule (extr. ibid. n$^o$. 17) (1901).
Su di alcune proprieta delle Superfici a generatrice circolare (Supplem. al Vol. 1
 delle Matematiche).
Una costruzione geometrica dell'equazione cubica (nel Vol. 1, n$^o$. 5 del "Le
 Matematiche").
Une méthode élémentaire de recherche del maxima et minima.   (Extr. de la
 Gazeta Matematica.   An. VII, n$^o$. 9, Mai 1902, Buçuresti,—(Rumania).
Saggio di nomenclatura della Recente Geometria del triangolo (dans le journal
 "Il Pitagora," vol. VIII, n$^i$. 3a9, 1902).
Alcune asservazioni sui pendoli e sui cronometri (Extr. de la Rassegua Tecnica
 Italiana, An. II, n$^i$. 4e5, Messina, 1902).
Complementi di Geometria elementare,—Milano, 1902, U. Hoepli, ed.
Elementi di Trigonometria Piana e Sferica, traduction, avec notej et adjointes du
 Traité de M. l'Abbé H. Gelin, de Huy.
Trattáto d Aritmetica, en collaboration de M. Gelin, à Huy.
Alcune formule della Teoria delle Superficie (Extr. de la Revista simestral de
 Matemática, An. II, n$^o$. 6, Zaragoza, 1902).

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# NINTH SUMMER MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY.*

By DR. L. E. DICKSON, of the University of Chicago.

The appropriateness of selecting a place as far west as Evanston, Illinois,
for one of the Summer meetings of the whole Society was shown by the large
and representative attendance as well as by the enthusiasm evinced at the four
official sessions and at the several social concourses.   Bearing on the geography
of the subject is the fact that Chicago contributes the President of the Society,
Professor E. H. Moore.   There were present members from Columbia, Cornell,
Johns Hopkins and other eastern institutions; from Kansas, the Dakotas, and
other western States; while the middle west was very fully represented.   The
number of papers presented exceeded thirty, being equal to the number present-
ed last Summer at Ithaca.

The program opened Tuesday morning, September second, with a paper
by Dr. F. R. Moulton of the University of Chicago, entitled "A method of con-
structing general expressions for the elements of the planetary orbits which are
valid for a finite time," in which objection was made to the so-called proofs by

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*This report was written by request of the Editor.